

- First, we would like to express gratitude for the deep and synodal exchange within the 8th Buddhist-Christian Colloquium's Group 3 discussion. Both the humility and accessibility of its most eminent international members and the courage and genuineness of its most ordinary members created the conditions for a lively and mutually enriching discussion.

On peacebuilding in contemporary conflict zones, the group highlighted the scarcity of prominent peace leaders today, unlike past figures like Moha Gosananda, and emphasized the Church's role in fostering peace and resilience through sensitivity and non-provocative approaches in conflict zones. Acts of charity, facilitated by good relationships with governments, reflect the Church's commitment to universal well-being, while figures like Pope Francis exemplify bridging diverse communities. Buddhists face challenges in amplifying a unified voice, with the Dalai Lama's influence limited, unlike Christians who benefit from media coverage from the West. Patience, silence, and loving-kindness (metta and karuna) emerged as shared Buddhist-Christian values critical for peacebuilding, alongside addressing social justice issues like land grabbing in indigenous communities. Personal stories, such as that of Father Stephen Se Sat, a Catholic priest from a Buddhist family, illustrated how integrated Buddhist and Christian teachings can foster inner peace and reconciliation and how love can overcome the wounds of hatred and despise.

While less time was dedicated to the second question, helpful insights were shared. Education was identified as a key collaborative space, with Buddhist and Christian students sharing life and values in Cambodian schools, uniting both traditions through shared missions and trust. Comparing sacred texts and their impact on believers was proposed to deepen mutual understanding and peace. The environment was also noted as a promising area for joint Buddhist-Christian efforts. The discussion ended with hope that this current colloquium can continue to foster such impactful conversations.